

at the press conference. Thank you. Nice to see you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:12 p.m. at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
July 7, 2008

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for advice and consent of the Senate to ratification the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 3, 2001, and signed by the United States on November 1, 2002 (the “Treaty”). The Treaty entered into force in June 2004.

The centerpiece of the Treaty is the establishment of a multilateral system under which a party provides access to other parties, upon request, to listed plant genetic resources held in national genebanks. These resources are to be used solely for purposes of research, breeding, and training in agriculture. A recipient of such a resource must then share the benefits from its use, e.g., a recipient who commercializes a product containing an accessed plant genetic resource must generally pay a percentage of any gross sales into a trust account.

Transfers under the multilateral system are to be accompanied by a standard material transfer agreement, the current version of which was concluded in June 2006.

Provision of plant genetic resources from U.S. genebanks is fully consistent with the Department of Agriculture’s long-standing general practice of providing access to such plant genetic resources upon request. Ratification of the Treaty will provide U.S. agricultural interests with similar access to other parties’ genebanks, thus helping U.S. farmers and researchers sustain and improve their crops and promote food security.

The Treaty may be implemented under existing U.S. authorities.

I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of

State concerning the Treaty, which contains an understanding regarding Article 12.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 7, 2008.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 8.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany in Toyako
July 8, 2008

President Bush. Madam Chancellor, thank you for yet another visit. I value your friendship; I value your advice. We talked about a lot of common problems and a lot of common opportunities. We talked about the G–8. We talked about the need to work—to continue to work together on Iran. Angela Merkel is a constructive force for good. And I appreciate your time. Thank you.

Chancellor Merkel. Well, thank you very much. As always, we had a very interesting exchange of view, a very intensive exchange of view. And let me tell you that I’m very satisfied with the work that has gone on, on the G–8 documents, as regards progress on the issue of climate change, cooperation in the area of food and oil. We discussed here a number of other foreign policy—foreign political issues—sorry. We also discussed WTO and the possible conclusion to that negotiating process. And let me say that we are hopeful that such a successful conclusion may be possible over the next few weeks to come.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:56 a.m. at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa. Chancellor Merkel spoke in German, and her remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India in Toyako
July 9, 2008

President Bush. Prime Minister Singh and I just had a typical conversation amongst